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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/057,091	01/28/2002	Bruce Edward Metzger	4257-A1	1439

7590

09/05/2003

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EXAMINER

PURVIS, SUE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1734

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2003

44

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/057,091

Applicant(s)

METZGER, BRUCE EDWARD

Examiner

Sue A. Purvis

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11, 12 and 15-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 10, 13, 14, 23 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11, 12, 15-17, 20, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Breen et al. (US Patent No. 5,016,367).

Breen discloses a board with opposing ends and opposing upper and lower surfaces.

Breen also includes swing able extensions (14) adjustable between open and closed positions.

Regarding claims 2, 7, and 16, these extensions are capable of receiving the force of an iron.

Regarding claims 3, 8, 17, and 22, the extensions are opposed or next to the upper surface in a closed position and away from the surface in an open position.

Regarding claims 11, 12, and 21, the board is an ironing board so while an iron is not shown in the drawings, an iron would be used in combination with the board. When the extensions are closed they are capable of engaging the force applying end of the iron and when the extensions are open they are capable of being away from the force applying end of the iron.

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3. Claims 1, 3-6, 15, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mattos et al. (US Patent No. 2,854,148).

Mattos discloses a board including opposing ends and opposing upper and lower surfaces. Mattos also includes an abutment structure (14) adjustable between open and closed positions.

Regarding claims 3 and 17, the closed position of the structure (14) opposes the upper surface of the board and the open condition is splayed away from the upper surface.

Regarding claims 4, 5, 18, and 19, the clip (68) allows the pivoted elements to be engaged.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 9, 10, 13, 14, 23 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason these claims are allowable is because they require not only that the first and second abutment elements of the board to be on opposing sides, but they also required that these elements engage one another. In Breen, the elements do not engage one another and in Mattos the abutment elements are not on opposing surfaces of the board.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

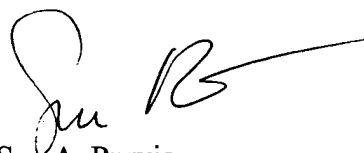
***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Steele (US Patent No. 2,287,646) discloses an ironing apparatus of interest. Gustavsen (US Patent No. 4,726,867), Shimota et al. (US Patent No. 3,660,191), Berry (US Patent No. 4,671,977), and Anderson (US Patent No. 4,584,040) disclose carpet seeming tools of interest.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sue A. Purvis whose telephone number is 703-305-0507. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rick Crispino can be reached on 703-308-3853. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-1495.



Sue A. Purvis  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1734

sp  
September 2, 2003